

ORDINANCE
NO. 1878

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WARREN, A HOME RULE MUNICIPALITY,
IN WARREN COUNTY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
AUTHORIZING THE PLACEMENT OF A REFERENDUM QUESTION
ON THE NOVEMBER 2016 GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT
PERTAINING TO THE COMPLETION DATE FOR THE
FINANCIAL REPORT AND INDEPENDENT ANNUAL AUDIT**

WHEREAS, effective January 2, 1978, the citizens of the Borough of Warren, now known as the City of Warren (hereinafter the "City"), elected to transfer the authority to act in municipal affairs from State law to a local Charter (hereinafter the "Charter") and become a Home Rule municipality, operating under the Home Rule and Optional Plans Law (53 Pa.C.S.A. §2901 et seq.); and

WHEREAS, according to the Home Rule and Optional Plans Law, specifically 53 Pa. C.S.A. §2941, amendments to the Charter may be proposed by City Council via ordinance, followed by a referendum, to the electorate of the City; and

WHEREAS, Section 1012 of the Charter currently requires a financial report and an independent annual audit to be completed no later than the last day of the fourth (4th) month following the fiscal year being audited, or April 30; and

WHEREAS, due to new Governmental Accounting Standards Board reporting requirements, it is impossible to meet the April 30 deadline for completion of the financial report and independent annual audit; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to amend the Charter to change the date by which the financial report and independent annual audit are to be completed; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to amend the Charter to change the date by which the financial report and independent annual audit must be completed, which amendment must be approved by the electorate, it is requested that the following question be placed on the ballot at the November 2016 General Election:

"SHALL SECTION 1012 OF THE HOME RULE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF WARREN BE AMENDED TO REQUIRE THAT THE FINANACIAL REPORT, INCLUDING THE INDEPENDENT ANNUAL AUDIT, BE COMPLETED NO LATER THAN THE LAST DAY OF THE SIXTH (6TH) MONTH FOLLOWING THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR BEING AUDITED?"

WHEREAS, City Council is authorized, pursuant to the Home Rule Charter and Optional Plans Law, specifically 53 Pa.C.S.A. §2941 et seq., to adopt an ordinance placing the above question on the ballot to amend the City's Charter; and

WHEREAS, City Council desires to have this question placed on the ballot for the November 2016 General Election.

NOW, THEREFORE THE CITY OF WARREN ORDAINS, and it is hereby ordained by Warren City Council:

Section 1.

Council desires to have the following question placed on the ballot for the November 2016 General Election:

“SHALL SECTION 1012 OF THE HOME RULE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF WARREN BE AMENDED TO REQUIRE THAT THE FINANCIAL REPORT INCLUDING THE INDEPENDENT ANNUAL AUDIT, BE COMPLETED NO LATER THAN THE LAST DAY OF THE SIXTH (6TH) MONTH FOLLOWING THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR BEING AUDITED?”

Section 2.

This Ordinance shall be submitted to the Warren County Board of Elections on, or before, August 9, 2016 for the purpose of complying with the requirements of the Home Rule Charter and Optional Plans Law, specifically Section 2941 et seq., and that the same shall be considered the City's Ordinance to the Warren County Board of Elections for the purpose of having the question set forth in Section 1 placed on the ballot for the November 2016 General Election.

Section 3.

The Warren County Board of Elections is hereby authorized and empowered to amend the language in the question set forth in Section 1 for the purpose of clarifying the language of this Ordinance but in no way to change its meaning or intent.

Section 4.

The City Clerk is hereby instructed to publish notice of the referendum at least once per week for each of the three (3) weeks leading up to November 8, 2016 in a newspaper of general circulation in the City.

ADOPTED this 1st day of August, 2016.